

# BULLETIN

OF THE

## ESSEX INSTITUTE.

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VOL. 4.

SALEM, MASS., JUNE, 1872.

No. 6.

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ANNUAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, MAY 8TH, 1872.

RETROSPECT FOR THE YEAR.

[Continued.]

*Publications.* The BULLETIN has been continued in monthly numbers, giving full reports of the doings of the Institute, and abstracts of papers read at the meetings; this makes an annual volume of some one hundred and sixty pages and a copy of each issue is sent gratuitously to the members. Vol. xi, No. 1, of the "Historical Collections" has been printed, and another part is nearly ready for distribution.

A fund, securely invested, the income of which to be expended in printing the proceedings of the Institute, and papers on scientific and historical subjects presented at its meetings, also records, diaries, letters and other material that will tend to elucidate our local history, is a great desideratum, and would tend to rescue from oblivion many interesting and valuable memorials of the olden times.

The importance of multiplying copies of all valuable documents, for which purpose the press is the great agent, cannot be overestimated, and numerous citations can be adduced in confirmation of the statement. The incidents connected with the late great conflagration at Chicago may suffice in this case. The Historical Society of that city lost much that is irrecoverable; as manuscript documents and correspondence relative to the early history of Illinois. In the Academy of Sciences of Chicago were lost also the valuable manuscripts containing the results of the Scientific work of Dr. William Stimpson for nearly twenty years; these were ready for the press, awaiting the action of government to have them printed.

#### OFFICERS ELECTED.

for the year ensuing and until others shall be chosen in their stead.

##### *President.*

HENRY WHEATLAND.

##### *Vice Presidents.*

*Of History* — A. C. GOODELL, JR. *Of Horticulture* — WM. SUTTON.  
*Of the Arts* — GEO. PEABODY. *Of Natural History* — F. W. PUTNAM.

##### *Recording and Home Secretary.*

AMOS H. JOHNSON.

##### *Foreign Secretary.*

A. S. PACKARD, JR.

##### *Treasurer.*

HENRY WHEATLAND.

##### *Librarian.*

W. P. UPHAM.

##### *Superintendent of the Museum.*

JOHN ROBINSON.

##### *Curators of Historical Department.*

W. P. Upham, M. A. Stickney, John Robinson.

*Curators of Natural History Department.*

H. F. King, G. A. Perkins, William Neilson.

*Curators of Department of Horticulture.*

R. Manning, A. F. Bosson, Wm. A. Ireland.

*Curators of Department of the Arts.*

James A. Gillis, F. H. Lee, H. F. G. Waters.

*Lecture Committee.*

Jas. Kimball, Geo. Perkins, Wm. Northey, Wm. Neilson, E. C. Bolles.

*Finance Committee.*

J. C. Lee, R. S. Rogers, James Upton.

*Field Meeting Committee.*

A. W. Dodge, C. M. Tracy, E. N. Walton, Caleb Cooke, A. B. Hervey.

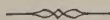
*Library Committee.*

J. G. Waters, Alpheus Crosby, H. M. Brooks.

*Publication Committee.*A. C. Goodell, Jr., F. W. Putnam, R. S. Rantoul, H. M. Brooks,  
G. D. Phippen.

## MEMBERS ELECTED.

Samuel Chamberlain, James E. Trask, Sidney Winslow and Elbridge Baker, all of Salem, were elected members.



## REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, MAY 20th, 1872.

THE PRESIDENT in the chair. Records of preceding meeting read.

The SECRETARY announced the following correspondence:—

From E. W. Buswell, Boston, May; J. J. H. Gregory, Marblehead, May 10; Augustus Mudge, Danvers Centre, May 4; W. Neilson, May 10; Wm. Northey, May 13; George Peabody, May 11; M. A. Stickney, May 14; John A. Vinton, Winchester, May 9.



The LIBRARIAN reported the following additions:—

*By Donation.*

BUTLER, B. F., M. C. Ellis's Speech in U. S. H. R., Apr. 30, 1872. Butler's Speech in U. S. H. R., Apr. 18, 1872. Report of the Department of Agriculture for March and April, 1872. Dawes' Speech in U. S. H. R., May 3, 1872.

CLOGSTON, W., of Springfield, Mass. London Directory, 1857, 1 vol. 12mo. Ithaca and Oswego Directory, 1867-8. 1 vol. 12mo. Utica Directories, 1842-3, 1853-4, 1858-9, 1861-2, 1867-8. 5 vols. 12mo. Oneida County Directory, 1866-7. 1 vol. 12mo.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. Mortality of the U. S. for 1850, 1860, 1870. 4to pamph.

KIMBALL, JAMES. Miscellaneous pamphlets, 7.

LEE, JOHN C. Commercial Bulletin for May 11, 1872.

MANNING, ROBERT. Amateur Cultivator's Guide. 2 vols. 8vo. 1869-70.

WHEATLAND, STEPHEN G. Neill & Smith's Compendium of Medica. 1 vol. 8vo. Hooper's Physicians' Vade Mecum. 1 vol. 12mo. Darwin's Origin of Species. 1 vol. 8vo. Digestion and its Derangements. 1 vol. 8vo. Watson's Practice of Physic. 1 vol. 8vo. Bowman's Medical Chemistry. 1 vol. 12mo. Wilde on Diseases of the Ear. 1 vol. 8vo. Paget's Surgical Pathology. 1 vol. 8vo. Wood's Practice of Medicine. 2 vols. 8vo. London Lancet. 1 vol. 8vo. Hunter. 1 vol. 8vo. Carpenter's Principles of Human Physiology. 1 vol. 8vo. Dictionnaire de Médecine. 1 vol. 8vo. Dwight's Modern Surgery. 1 vol. 8vo. Book of Prescriptions. 1 vol. 12mo. The Prescriber's Complete Handbook. 1 vol. 12mo. Taylor's Medical Jurisprudence. 1 vol. 8vo. Sargent's Minor Surgery. 1 vol. 12mo. Copland's Medical Dictionary. 1 vol. 8vo. Beck's Materia Medica. 1 vol. 8vo. Wilson's Diseases of the Skin. 1 vol. 8vo. Mille's Practice of Surgery. 1 vol. 8vo. U. S. Dispensatory. 1 vol. 8vo.

WILLIAMS, HENRY L. Salem Gazette, 76 nos. Boston Shipping List, 1844. 1 vol. folio.

*By Exchange.*

PUBLISHERS. Gloucester Telegraph. Hardwicke's Science Gossip. Haverhill Gazette. Land and Water. Lawrence American. Little Giant. Lynn Reporter. Lynn Transcript. Medical and Surgical Reporter. Nation. Nature. Peabody Press. Salem Observer.

Mr. JOHN ROBINSON exhibited an interesting collection of native plants in flower which he had gathered in this vicinity during the past few days, and made some remarks upon the same, indicating the localities, and time of blooming, which was several weeks later the present season than that of the average periods for some ten or twelve previous years. The following may be specified: *Sanguinaria Canadensis*, *Erythronium Americanum*, *Epigæa repens*, *Thalictrum anemonoides*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Thalictrum dioicum*, *Viola pedata*, *Viola pubescens*, *Viola sagittata*, *Viola blanda*, *Houstonia cærulea*, *Arisæ-*

TABLE CONTAINING THE DATES OF THE FIRST FINDING IN FLOWER OF SOME OF OUR NATIVE VERNAL PLANTS.

	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i> , Wind Flower,.....	Apr. 30	Apr. 22	Apr. 12	Apr. 19	Apr. 27				Apr. 27	Apr. 14	Apr. 23	Apr. 25	Apr. 24	Apr. 23	Apr. 25	Apr. 23
<i>Aquilegia Canadensis</i> , Wild Columbine,.....	May 15	May 11	May 7..	May 12	May 10				May 5..							
<i>Arabis trifolia</i> , Dwarf Ginseng,.....	May 18		May 21	May 26											May 18	
<i>Arctostaphylos bulbosa</i> ,.....																
<i>Cornus Canadensis</i> , Dwarf Cornel,.....									May 30		June 9.	June 5.	June 12	May 31	June 2.	May 28
<i>Cypripedium acule</i> , Ladies' Slipper,.....	May 25	June 1.	June 1.	May 20	May 28				May 25	May 21	May 30	June 1.	June 3.	June 6.	May 26	May 26
<i>Epigaea repens</i> , Trailing Arbutus,.....									June 1.	May 21	May 30	May 28	June 3.	May 30	May 28	May 26
<i>Erythronium Americanum</i> , Dog's Tooth Violet,		Apr. 22	Apr. 15	Apr. 15	Apr. 21				Apr. 21	Apr. 8..	Apr. 23	Apr. 16	Apr. 24	Apr. 25	Apr. 25	Apr. 23
<i>Hepatica triloba</i> , Round-leaved Hepatica,.....	Apr. 10	Apr. 3..	Mch. 28	Mch. 19	Mch 10*				Mch. 20	Mch. 19	Mch. 21	Apr. 4..	Mch 29†	Mch. 28	Jan. 27	Mch. 11
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i> , Laurel,.....	June 20		June 20						June 18	June 10	June 12	June 10	June 28	June 27	June 20	June 13
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i> , Water Lily,.....	July 17	July 7..	July 4..								June 28	July 1..	July 13.	July 19.	July 7..	June 24
<i>Oldenlandia purpurea</i> , Bluets, Houstonia,.....	Apr. 30	Apr. 20	Apr. 17	Apr. 19	Apr. 27				Apr. 19	Apr. 2..	Apr. 25	Apr. 21				
<i>Sanguinaria Canadensis</i> , Bloodroot,.....		Apr. 12	Apr. 7.	Mch. 31	Apr. 18				Apr. 15	Apr. 2..	Apr. 20	Apr. 16	Apr. 19	Apr. 10	Apr. 10	Apr. 6.
<i>Sarracenia purpurea</i> , Side Saddle Flower,.....																
<i>Smilacina bifolia</i> , Two-leaved Solomon's Seal,	May 25	June 1.	June 4.									June 5.	June 12	June 1.	June 21	May 28
<i>Trientalis Americana</i> , Star Flower,.....	May 22	June 1.	May 29	May 20	May 24				May 31	May 21	May 28	May 28	June 6.	May 25	May 22	May 21
<i>Utricularia sessilifolia</i> , Sessile-leaved Bellwort,.....		May 8.	May 8.	May 4..	May 5.				May 5..							

\* Mch. 24, snow two feet deep.

† Two flowers. Snowstorm. 19 plants.

‡ Found two yellow ones.

*ma triphyllum*. He presented the accompanying table — containing the date of the first finding in flower, the several species enumerated therein — compiled by one of our enthusiastic collectors, the results of his observations for the past fifteen years.

MR. GEORGE D. PHIPPEN spoke of some of the localities which he was wont to frequent, in years long past, in search of our native plants, and which are now occupied by dwellings or manufacturing industries. He alluded briefly to the great change that had taken place in the immediate suburbs of the city.

Rev. E. C. BOLLES remarked, that a day or two before, he had listened to a lecture by Prof. Asa Gray on the Fertilization of Plants by the Agency of Insects, and that several of the wild-flowers on the table had served as illustrations. Among these was the *Houstonia*, of which there had long been known to be two kinds of flowers. The first had stamens projecting above the dwarfed pistil, while in the second the stigmas were carried up far beyond the anthers. The members of the Institute would see both kinds pretty equally represented in the tufts of flowers before them, distinguishing these by observing that in some flowers they would see only the two stigmas, in others only the four anthers projecting from the throat of the corolla. So the *Houstonia* had been said to have *dimorphous* flowers, but the reason for this variation had not been understood till an explanation had been sought in the possibility of an artificial fertilization. It was now seen that the pollen of any *Houstonia* blossom did not fertilize the ovules of the same flower. In the case of the flowers with extruded stigmas, this could not occur unaided, because the stamens were deeply sunk in the



corolla—while in the other kind the pollen would not be found to exert a fertilizing effect upon its own stigma. But the two kinds of flowers were exquisitely arranged to produce cross-fertilization. An insect, exploring a corolla where the anthers were at the bottom, would cover its proboscis with pollen, which would be carried to the depressed stigma of the other kind of flower, and while visiting that second flower, the insect's head would remove some of the pollen, which again it would leave on the exerted stigma of a third flower of the kind first plundered. The structure of these flowers is to be explained in Prof. Gray's book, just passing through the press, entitled "How Plants Behave."

Mr. J. H. EMERTON mentioned that in November last he dug a root of *Batrychium dissectum* from an open pasture, and in January set it down with other ferns in a glass case. In about two months it produced a new frond with the usual triangular outline, but nearly twice as large as the old ones, and with the divisions of the pinnae almost entire. The next frond, which grew in another month, was of the ordinary kind. It afterward produced in succession three fronds five or six inches long, with pinnae in pairs over an inch apart toward the base, and with their divisions almost entire, looking very much like small sterile fronds of *Osmurida Claytoniana*.

Mr. F. W. PUTNAM gave an account of the explorations of several members of the Institute at Jeffries' Neck, in Ipswich, on Friday last.

The researches were undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining if a large number of depressions, in two groups, about a mile apart, were graves of Indians, as had been supposed. After carefully digging into several

of the places and getting to the original bottoms of the holes, it was evident to all present that they were not graves, and though a few stone implements and pieces of Indian pottery were found in the course of the excavations, there was nothing by which the original makers of the holes could be determined beyond doubt as Indians, though unquestionably the holes had been dug years ago by some race of men, and perhaps by the Indians for some temporary purpose. During the digging an old clay pipe bowl, of the pattern used by the first settlers, was found, indicating that perhaps the depressions were of a comparatively recent date, though the pipe might have been lost at a time following the original working, as it was found only a few inches below the sod.

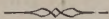
One of the most interesting results of the explorations was the finding by Mr. Goodell of a well marked piece of Indian pottery in the gravel bank about three feet below the surface. This piece of pottery was seen, and the spot from which it was taken carefully examined, by several of the party, and it was unquestionably carried into the bank of gravel at the same time the bank was formed, and not buried there, as the gravel was undisturbed and the fragment of pottery by itself. The only question is as to the age of the gravel deposit, whether original river drift, or wash from the hills above at a more recent time, though even if of the later date it would prove of great antiquity.

Mr. Putnam exhibited a plan, made by Mr. J. H. Emerton, of one of the groups of depressions, showing their relative positions, and also a section of one of those opened. A sketch, showing the clearing which had been made by taking away all the large stones from the vicinity, and the relation of the depressions to the surrounding country, was made by Mr. C. A. Walker.

Mr. Putnam was followed by remarks from Messrs.



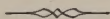
Goodell, Kimball, and others. After an interesting discussion on these and other subjects suggested by the above topics the meeting was adjourned.



REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, JUNE 3, 1872.

PRESIDENT in the chair.

Samuel Calley of Salem and George E. Lewis of Peabody were elected resident members.



FIELD MEETING AT MIDDLETON, WEDNESDAY,  
JUNE 12TH, 1872.

THE RAMBLE.

THE Institute, in arranging the series of Field Meetings, the present season, decided to commence at Middleton and to accept the kind invitation of Mr. Simon F. Esty to use his grounds as the place of rendezvous for the day. Thither the party, on alighting from the cars of the Lawrence Branch of the Eastern Railroad, at the Middleton station, about two hours before noon, wended their way, and found a beautiful walnut grove well adapted for the purpose of rural excursions, situated on the borders of a large pond formerly known as "the Great Pond," but now designated "Forest Lake."

From this place the several parties, after depositing their baskets, etc., went in different directions as inclinations dictated; some upon the pond, boats being in readiness for the purpose, others rambled through the grove

and adjoining woods, or betook themselves to some of the pleasant by-paths that here abound, and are more or less skirted with shrubbery and the flowering plants that appear and disappear, in succession, with the advance of the season. Many of these by-paths were undoubtedly the primitive roads constructed by the early settlers, from house to house, without any definite plan, merely for their own personal convenience. When the villages and towns sprung up requiring better and more direct means of communication, other roads were constructed and these were soon abandoned; the people accordingly changed their places of residence and built other houses; the old ones being neglected soon fell into decay. One occasionally meets in rambling through the woods and following the devious windings of some of these old by-paths or cross-roads the remains of an old cellar, the gnarled apple tree near by, a few plants that always linger in the footsteps of man, and perhaps the old well in the midst of dense woods and forests. Nature soon usurps her sway and clothes with rich verdure the places that man ceases to cultivate.

This diversity of the surface into hills and dales, with the various brooks and ponds interspersed, adds to the beauty of the scenery and greatly contributes to the pleasures of rural walks. Through the kindness of Mr. David Stiles, several of those interested in antiquarian lore were enabled to see specimens of the old houses, two stories front with a lean-to in the rear, that have braved the blasts of some two hundred winters, also the burial places where the forefathers of the hamlet sleep with their names inscribed upon the simple stone that marks the spot of interment. Mr Stiles directed attention to other objects of historical interest; some of these will be alluded to in the afternoon session. Middleton has two railroads located within its territory, one from Salem to Lowell in the extreme

western part at the paper mill, the other from Salem to Lawrence through the central part near the village. The occupation of the inhabitants is largely agricultural; though the manufacture of shoes and paper is carried on to considerable extent.

After partaking of the repast at the grove the party proceeded to the church, where the afternoon session was held, commencing at 3 P. M. The PRESIDENT in the chair.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Records of preceding meeting read.

The SECRETARY announced the following correspondence:—

From F. S. Drake, Boston, May 11; Simon F. Esty, Middleton, May 28; H. Hagen, Cambridge, May 6; A. Lackey, Haverhill, June 4; James Niven, Saugus Centre, May 22; W. S. Perry, Geneva, N. Y., May 20; A. A. Scott, Saugus Centre, May 24; W. P. Upham, May 14; Durkheim, Naturwissenschaftlicher Verein der Rheinpfalz, Feb. 7; Gottingen, Die K. Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften, Jan. 10; Saint Petersburg, Academie Imperiale des Sciences, Ap. 29; Throndhjem, Société Royale des Sciences et des Lettres, Aug. 16, Dec. 12; U. S. Dep. of Interior, May 14.

The LIBRARIAN reported the following additions:—

#### *By Donation.*

BROOKS, HENRY M. Corry's Life of Washington. 1 vol. 12mo. Juvenile Lyre. 1 vol. 8vo. Life of Marion. 1 vol. 12mo. \* Bibliotheca Historica. 1 vol. 8vo.

BRYANT, JAMES S., of Hartford, Conn. Register for the State of Conn. for 1790-16mo. Flint's Discourse on Washington. 8vo. Proudfit's Sermon. 8vo.

BUFFUM, JAMES N., of Lynn, Mass. Lynn City Documents for 1871. 1 vol. 8vo.

BUTLER, B. F., M. C. Kelly's Speech in U. S. H. R. May 1, 1872. Butler's Speech in U. S. H. R., May 21, 1872.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, New York. Fourteenth Annual Report of, 1871-72. 1 vol. 8vo.

CROSBY, ALPHEUS. Dartmouth Centennial. 1869. 8vo pamph. Catalogues of Dartmouth College, 1864-5, 1870-1, 1871-2. 3 pamphlets, 8vo.

DABNEY, M. P. Works of Mrs. Barbauld. 2 vols. 8vo. Domestic Memoirs. 2 vols. 12mo. Thoughts on Education. 1 vol. 12mo. Sketches of Foreign Manners. 1 vol. 12mo. Works of Dr. Franklin, 1 vol. 16mo. Memoirs of the Life of M. L. Ramsay. 1 vol. 16mo. Hamilton's Letters. 1 vol. 12mo. Journal of the American Unitarian Association. 40 nos. Fac-simile of the Original Manuscript of Burns' Jolly Beggars. 4to pamph.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. U. S. Geological Report of Nebraska. Final Report. 1 vol. 8vo. Ninth Census of the U. S. 4to pamph.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FRENCH RELIEF FUND, Boston. Reports of, 2 pamphlets, 8vo.



- PEABODY INSTITUTE, Peabody, Mass. Peabody Press and Danvers Monitor. 1870, 1871. 2 vols. folio.
- LANGWORTHY, I. P., of Boston. Miscellaneous pamphlets, 39.
- LEE, JOHN C. Commercial Bulletin, May 18, 1872.
- PALFRAY, C. W. Directory of Hannibal, 1871-2. 1 vol. 8vo.
- PEABODY, Mrs. FRANCIS. Every Night Book. 1 vol. 12mo. Every Saturday 21 nos. Miscellaneous pamphlets, 12.
- PERRY, W. S., of Geneva, N. Y. Digest of the Canons. 8vo pamph. 1872.
- PHILLIPS, W. P. Agriculture of Mass., 1871-2. 1 vol. 8vo. Thirty-Fifth Annual Report of the Board of Education. 1 vol. 8vo. Boston, 1872. Miscellaneous pamphlets, 12.
- PREBLE, G. H., of Charlestown. Notes on Ship-building in Mass. 8vo pamph. 1872.
- SHEPARD, HENRY F. American Naturalist. 15 nos. Miscellaneous pamphlets, 6.
- STORY, ELIZA. East Indies Directories. 2 vols. 4to. Geographical Grammar. 1 vol. 8vo. Requisite Tables. 2 vols. 8vo. Geometrical Problems. 1 vol. 8vo. Blunt's Coast Pilot. 1 vol. 8vo. Clarrissa. 8 vols. 12mo. Salmon's Gazetteer. 1 vol. 12mo. Volney's Ruins. 1 vol. 16mo. Willich's Lectures. 2 vols. 8vo. Miscellaneous pamphlets, 50.
- SUMNER, CHAS., U. S. Senate. Sumner's Speech in U. S. Sen. May 31, 1872.
- ROBINSON, W. S., Clerk Mass. House of Reps. Journal of the House of Reps. of Mass. 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871. 7 vols. 8vo. Report of the Committee on Claims on the Alterations and Repairs upon the State House. 1839. 1 vol. 8vo. Miscellaneous pamphlets, 65.
- WHITING, WILLIAM, of Boston. Memoir of Rev. Saml. Whiting, D. D., by the donor. 1 vol. 8vo. Boston, 1872.
- WINTHROP, ROBT C., of Brookline, Mass. Life and Letters of John Winthrop. 1588-1649. 2 vols. 8vo. Boston. 1869.

*By Exchange.*

- CROSSE ET FISCHER. Journal de Conchyliologie, Tome xii. 3e Série. No. 1. 1872.
- ENTOMOLOGISCHEN VEREIN IN STETTIN. Entomologische Zeitung. 32 Jahrg. 1871. 8vo. Stettin. 1871.
- K. GESELLSCHAFT DER WISSENSCHAFTEN IN GOTTINGEN, HANOVER. Nachrichten, 1871. 16mo pamph.
- KONGELIGE NORSKE VIDENSKABERS-SELSKAB, THRONDHJEM. Skrifter, i det 19de Aarhundrede, Bind femte, Hest. I, II. 1865-68. Bindsjette, 1870. 3 pamphlets, 8vo.
- KÖNIGLICHE BAYERISCHE BOTANISCHE GESELLSCHAFT IN REGENSBURG. Flora, Neue, Reihe. 29 Jahrg. 1871. 8vo pamph. 1871.
- OBERLAUSITZISCHE GESELLSCHAFT DER WISSENSCHAFTEN IN GÖRLITZ. Neues Lausitzisches Magazin. Im Auftrage der Oberlausitzischen Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften. Bd. xiviii. 1871. 8vo pamph.
- SOCIÉTÉ D'ACCLIMATION, IN PARIS. Bulletin Mensuel, 2me Série. Tome viii. Dec., 1871. 8vo pamph.
- SOCIÉTÉ D'ANTHROPOLOGIE IN PARIS. Bulletins, Tomes v, vi. 11e Série. 1870-71. 8vo pamphlets.
- SOCIÉTÉ VANDOISE DES SCIENCES NATURELLES. Lausanne, Bulletin, Vol. x, No. 65, 1870. 8vo pamph.
- ZOOLOGISCHE GESELLSCHAFT, FRANKFURT A M. Zoologische Garten. Nos. 7-12. Juli-Dec. 1871. 6 pamphlets. 8vo.
- PUBLISHERS. American Naturalist. Christian World. Gardener's Monthly.

Gloucester Telegraph. Haverhill Gazette. Ipswich Chronicle. Land and Water. Lawrence American. Little Giant. Lynn Reporter. Lynn Transcript. Medical and Surgical Reporter. Nation. Nature. Peabody Press. Salem Observer. The Brunonian.

### The SUPERINTENDENT of the Museum reported :—

From Miss J. R. COLBY, a Fire Set, taken from the ruins of the house of Mrs. Mulliken, burned by the British at the Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775.

#### FIRST FIELD MEETINGS—DR. WILLIAM STIMPSON.

THE PRESIDENT in his opening remarks alluded to the coincidence of this day being the twenty-third anniversary of the first Field Meeting, which was held in the neighboring town of Danvers, on June 12, 1849. Some twelve or fifteen members in private carriages assembled at the Plains, and under the guidance of our old friend, Dr. Andrew Nichols, visited the locality of the *Vaccinium vitis-idea* first discovered by William Oakes in 1820—this plant is seldom found growing elsewhere within the limits of Massachusetts. The sphagnous borders of Cedar Pond in Wenham were also visited and there was detected the *Andromeda polifolia* just passing out of bloom. Thence repairing to Berry's Tavern at the Plains, the afternoon was devoted to explaining and illustrating by the microscope (a constant accompaniment at these meetings) the structure and economy of the lower algæ, fungi, lichens, etc. The second meeting, a few weeks later, was held at the residence of A. T. Newhall in Lynnfield. There were present with us on this occasion, Messrs. F. Alger and C. T. Jackson of Boston, and Seaman of Germany. Ship Rock and the serpentine ledges in Lynnfield were visited, and at the afternoon session furnished topics for discussion. The third, on the 28th of August following, was at the seashore on Burley Smith's farm in Manchester. Some visited the woods of Essex and Manchester where Cutler and Oakes, in years long past, were

went to herbarize ; a few spent the time in dredging along the adjacent shores, a boat having been sent from Salem for this purpose. The visitors on this occasion were Mr. C. Girard, an assistant of Prof. Agassiz, and a young man named Stimpson, hailing from Cambridge, and not then out of his teens. Acquaintance had been made with Mr. Stimpson, a week or two previous, during a trip in the steamer R. B. Forbes from Boston to Salem, with members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, who were visiting Salem, on the day after the adjournment of the session at Cambridge. Dredges having been put on board, at the suggestion of Professor Agassiz, were used occasionally during the trip.

Let us consider in this connection the subsequent career of this young man, the notice of whose death at Ilchester, near Baltimore, on the 26th ult., has been so recently announced. That trip from Boston to Salem was his first experience in dredging, a novelty to him, and he was much interested in this pursuit. He visited Salem several times during that autumn, and accompanied me on dredging excursions in the harbor. The results of his gleanings on these occasions formed the basis of a series of observations which were embodied in a work on the New England Shells, published in 1851—his first introduction to the scientific world as an author. This was soon followed by a paper on the Marine Invertebrates of Grand Menan, published in 1853, under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution, and has since been considered as the first authority in the marine zoology of that region. He then spent several years in the North Pacific, Japan, etc., as naturalist to Government Expeditions and made vast collections, principally the results of dredging in those seas. He then resided for some years at Washington, in the quiet prosecution of his investigations, and the publica-



tion of their results. When the late Robert Kennicott went to Alaska, in 1865, in the employment of the Russian Telegraphic Expedition, Dr. Stimpson removed to Chicago to assume the duties of Secretary of the Chicago Academy of Natural Sciences, and maintained that connection until his death. During that interval he visited Florida on several occasions, and always obtained numerous interesting collections for the Academy.

Dr. Stimpson ranked high as a scientific investigator, his researches were thorough and his descriptions clear and accurate. He has added a large number of new species to the list of marine animals, the detailed account of which, forming many zoological monographs with illustrations nearly ready for the press, were destroyed by the Chicago fire as were also the types of his species. This great loss, the result of his labors for twenty years, affected him severely and influenced very much the state of his health.

The past winter Dr. Stimpson was engaged on board the U. S. C. S. steamer *Bache* in superintending dredging between Cape San Antonio, Cuba, and the coast of Yucatan and thence to Key West—but his increasing infirmities prevented him from fully carrying out his plans—returning not long since to the residence of his father-in-law near Baltimore he became gradually worse and died, as before noticed, on the 26th of May.

It seems appropriate, at this time and on this occasion, to allude to the decease of Dr. Stimpson, especially from the fact that he received his first experiences in the uses and results of dredging at one of these outdoor meetings, and that after the lapse of more than a score of years a life, then at its commencement, closes so full in the performance of scientific work and having done so much for the promotion and diffusion of science in this country.

Mr. F. W. PUTNAM alluded to the high position which Dr. Stimpson had taken in the ranks of science, and to the esteem in which he had always been held by those associated with him, and closed by proposing that a committee be appointed by the Institute to draw up a series of resolutions expressive of the loss which it had sustained. The committee, consisting of Messrs. Putnam, Bolles, Johnson and Wheatland, afterwards reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, and it was voted that a copy be sent to the family of Dr. Stimpson, and to the Chicago Academy of Sciences.

*Resolved:* That the Essex Institute has learned with profound regret of the recent death of Dr. William Stimpson, who has for so long a time been distinguished as the foremost American student in Marine Zoology, and whose loss to science is the greater since it has occurred in the midst of his successful labors to restore the fortunes of that Institution which has owed so much to his eminent attainments.

*Resolved:* That even in the grief which this severe affliction causes, the Essex Institute cannot but remember with pride that Dr. Stimpson's first acquaintance with the department of investigation which he afterwards pursued to such results, was made under its own auspices, and that the records of its Field Meetings for 1849 will preserve the honorable memorials of this beginning of his fame.

*Resolved:* That the Secretary of the Institute be instructed to convey, by these Resolutions, to the family of Dr. Stimpson and to the Chicago Academy of Sciences, not only the assurances of the high appreciation in which its members hold the scientific acquirements and labors of their lamented friend, but also their earnest sympathy with his relatives in the sorrow of their bereavement.